

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted to be fully responsive to the non-final Official Action of **January 4, 2007**. In the present response, claims 1, 37 and 40 are amended, and claim 4 is cancelled. No New matter is introduced (see, e.g., original claim 4). Thus, claims 1-2, and 3-40 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Backer for conducting the personal interview with Applicants' undersigned attorney on March 7, 2007. During the interview, Applicants' undersigned attorney distinguished the pending claims over the applied reference, *Gilliam et al.* (USPA 20040034582). Accordingly, independents claims 1, 37 and 40 patentably distinguish over *Gilliam et al.*, as discussed during the interview, and set forth in detail below.

As noted during the interview, the pending claims, for example, include features for rights expression language (REL) interpretation and/or processing, and more particularly to an efficient mechanism to identify applicable licenses for meeting users' requirements. Specifically, independents claims 1, 37 and 40, as amended, recite "prioritizing the returned rights expressions based on the one or more conditions of the returned rights expressions, so as to facilitate selection of the returned rights expressions."

By contrast, the *Gilliam et al.* is directed to REL issued by a content recipient, and a similarity includes identifying a correspondence between licenses. However, *Gilliam et al.* does not disclose "prioritizing the returned rights expressions based on the one or more conditions of the returned rights expressions, so as to facilitate selection of the returned rights expressions," as recited in independents claims 1, 37 and 40, and which advantageously provides an efficient mechanism to identify applicable licenses for meeting users' requirements.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 37 and 40 are patentably distinguishable over *Gilliam et al.* The dependent claims are allowable on their own merits and for at least the reasons as argued above with respect to independent claims 1, 37 and 40.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,

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